

Malone, just without the borough, and Lough Neagh and sea sand are also used.

The principal streets of Belfast are well paved with broad flagged "trottoirs." The roadway is generally macadamised, but in some few cases paved with wood. The road pavement is constructed of short cylindrical blocks, cut from pine spars; and as these leave triangular interstices, which are filled with gravel, the pavement is seldom slippery, and seems to stand the moderate traffic over it very well. In some of the smaller streets the footways are laid with black (basalt) and white (limestone) pebbles from the shore of the Lough. These are usually disposed in regular geometric patterns, and form a rude tessellated pavement. The street-posts throughout the town have the cardinal points east on the top, with the "fleur-de-lys" always pointing north, so that a stranger can at any time tell, at least, his bearing when abroad. This plan might furnish a hint to the Metropolitan Paving Commissioners, and would be of real use in London, where even natives lose themselves occasionally.

In various parts of the town there are cast-iron water troughs erected for horses and cattle: these are put up and maintained at the expense of the British Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and supplied with water gratuitously by the water commissioners. They are served by a bail-cock, so arranged as to allow the water always to stand up to the brim. They are covered and locked at night. There are no watering-places for dogs, but the police regulations of the borough compel owners of dogs to attach to their collars a block of wood of a certain weight, during the summer months. This may have some occult influence on the animal's disposition, but would rather, one would suppose, increase than diminish any tendency to incontinence.

Belfast is supplied with abundance of tolerably soft water from the Cave-hill Water-works, which are situated at a sufficient height on the side of the mountain to serve the tops of the highest houses. It is optional with owners of houses whether they will use the water or not, but the tenant must pay the rate if the main pipe runs within a reasonable distance of his door.

Gas is manufactured by an English company, and there is a very great consumption, not only in the mills, but in private residences—the latter almost universally being fitted in all the rooms with burners. I am told that a considerable quantity of common air is mixed with the gas, which both increases the brilliancy of the light by insuring more perfect combustion, and renders the manufacture more profitable. The price is 5s. per 1,000 feet; coals varying from 10s. to 13s. 6d. per ton. A discount is allowed to large consumers.

The town lying on a flat, very little above high water mark, and the rise of the tide being but about 10 feet, the drainage is not first-rate. However, some large sewers have been lately constructed, and public feeling seems awakened to the expediency of good draining in a sanitary view. A great part of the sewerage is poured into the Blackstaff river, which runs through the northern quarter of the town, rendering a pure mountain stream the most horrid mass of filth and putrescence imaginable. It has been proposed to culvert this river, and power to raise money was obtained last session; but the Blackstaff is like all mountain streams, subject to floods, and no culvert could carry off the great body of water brought down after heavy rain, which occasionally (as in last October) lays the whole town under water. A better plan would be, I think, to construct a sewer for the sewerage, and leave the river for river-water and rain. The street railings are always made of wrought iron. They are rendered ornamental by hollow iron castings being threaded on each rail, forming a base, centre, and cap, under the horizontal bar, and having generally a floriated termination to each rail.

Intramural burial has never been known in Belfast. All the cemeteries are beyond the borough boundary. These are, however, much overcrowded, especially the Roman Catholic

burying-ground at Friar's Bush, near Queen's College, and this is rapidly becoming intramural by the increase of buildings in this quarter. There are no exact means of ascertaining the rate of mortality in Ireland, the Act of Registration, &c. not extending to this country; but to judge from the number of funerals constantly taking place, it must be very high. This is denied, however, by some, who argue, that from the health of the troops quartered in the town, that of the whole population should be judged; but the barracks are built on high ground, open, and airy; and military discipline enforces a degree of cleanliness which is by no means practised by the people generally.

On my first arrival here, two years ago, I supposed, from the absence of cowls, puffers, windguards, &c. that the Belfast architects had solved the problem of constructing a chimney in which the smoke would ascend. Experience, however, teaches me that chimneys do smoke in Belfast, and that the absence of remedial contrivances arises from the patient and enduring character of the natives.

Houses here are occupied as soon as finished, often even before the plasterers are out: the walls (which are never papered till after some lapse of time) stream with water for months. The wood-work is merely primed; and when the walls are dry, the painting and papering are completed. Every house is fitted with a shower-bath adjoining the water-closet, and the same cistern, and usually the same closet, serves for both: the better class houses have a regular bath-room.

Sea-bathing is found at Holywood, five miles from Belfast, and at various other places in the neighbourhood. Machines are unknown, and the same baths promiscuously in a way which at first astonishes an Englishman. But after a time the feelings become "more Irish, and less nice." And nowhere have I seen any approach to indecorum or impropriety.

"HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE."

#### A BIT OF CRITICISM.

LORD HAREINGTON'S MANSION.

It surely happened not a little ~~astonishingly~~ that the very same number of your journal which contains what I said relative to the important qualities of breadth and repose, under the heading of "Window Architectures," also exhibits an elevation that serves to manifest the value of these qualities, by showing the unfortunate consequences of the total disregard of them. As Mr. Ripplingill says (in his pamphlet, "Obsolescence in Art: a Reply to the author of Modern Painters, in his Defence of Pre-Raphaelitism"), "There are two ways of learning; the one, by going wrong, and the other by going right." Of the former highly undesirable mode of instruction, a notable instance is furnished by the design alluded to: let us then hope that it will prove an efficacious one also. Were I to express my opinion of it without reserve, I should be compelled to make use of language and epithets which, however justly merited, would be deemed as illiberal as they would be disagreeable. All, then, that I will say is, that it makes us sigh for even Strawberry-hill Gothic, and that the "Clarendon" looks superlatively aristocratic in comparison with it. Instead of "repose" we have actual torture—the very thumbscrew of design. You yourself admit that the design of the windows is more eccentric than beautiful. Eccentric, forsooth! I do not object to the *ex*, but the other letters of the word should have been *ecrabile*.

With regard to the plan of the mansion in question, I think it exceedingly poor at the best, and in many respects not a little defective; but I reserve my remarks upon it for the present, and until I am encouraged to offer them by the insertion of those which I now send.

Q. E. D.

THE PRESTON PEEL STATUE was inaugurated on Whit Monday. If we may judge correctly by an engraving of it given in the *Preston Guardian* of 5th inst. the pedestal is much too high.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

**Halsted.**—The church of St. Andrew, Halsted having been restored, was re-opened on Tuesday in last week. The edifice has the appearance of a new building within and without. The external walls, which were of a calcareous cement, are now of flint, with Cass stone dressings. All the stonework has been executed by Mr. White, of Pimlico. The body of the church and the tower were restored under Mr. Clarke, the diocesan architect. The old tower has been taken down and a new one, 110 feet in height, erected, 25 feet into the yard, so as to secure 50 feet additional, with sittings under the belfry. The walls which cut off the side aisles from the nave have been removed and the space thrown into the church. The roof of the nave is of oak and open to the rafters. The chancel has been restored under the superintendence of Mr. H. W. Haywood, of Colchester, who has adopted the decorated style. The east wall, and part of the north, next the church, have been taken down and re-built, and a new stone doorway, with carved oak door, has been erected for the vestry. The low plastered roof is down, and the whole raised to a corresponding height with the rest of the building, with oaken roof. The floors are laid with encaustic tiles, the gift of Mr. Norton. The carvings have been carried out by Mr. Rayner, of Halsted, builder, the contractor for the whole of the work. The great east window is of stained glass, the subjects being—the taking down from the Cross, the Annunciation, and Ascension, executed by Chatterback, and is a memorial to the late Dr. Adams. The nave and aisles are fitted up with low open oak benches, and will altogether accommodate 370 persons. The sum expended upon the work amounts to between 5,000 and 6,000*l.* and a debt of 900*l.* still remains. More than 30,000*l.* raised by voluntary contributions, have been expended in this parish for churches and schools in the last ten years, according to the *Chesham Chronicle*.

**Swindon.**—The new market-house committee have accepted the tender of Mr. George Major for building the market-house at the sum of 1,185*l.* The works are to be commenced forthwith, and to be completed by December next. The structure is of the Doric order, having a frontage of 75 feet, to be built with Bath stone. Above the market there will be an assembly room, 47 feet by 27 feet, for magisterial and other public purposes, with ante-rooms, library, reading-room, &c. intended for the use of the "Swindon Library and Literary Institute." The basement also contains store-rooms for corn, cheese, &c. Mr. S. Sage, of Swindon, is the architect, whose estimate for the building was 1,170*l.* The following is a list of the tenders sent in:—Mr. Frampton, 1,240*l.*; Mr. Barrett, 1,212*l.*; Mr. Phillips, 1,195*l.*; Mr. George Major, 1,185*l.* (accepted).

**Rugby.**—The foundation stone of Holy Trinity Church, Rugby, was laid on Thursday in last week.

**Worcester.**—A curious affair has taken place here in regard to the proposed enlargement and restoration of St. Nicholas's church. Notes of hand, &c. to the amount of 2,500*l.* were presented to the rector about two years and a half since, by Mr. W. Laslett, member of Parliament for Worcester, to enable him to carry out the proposed enlargement, and which he presented along with a note, in which he says:—"I hereby assign and make over the notes of hand and moneys to you absolutely, for the purpose aforesaid, or for any charitable foundation." An architect, Mr. Day, was accordingly consulted, and tenders called for, when some difficulty was found in making the amount of the fund cover the cost of the proposed enlargement, and thus various delays arose till the autumn of last year, when Mr. Laslett obtained from the rector, Mr. Haveragel, a loan of one of the notes of hand for 1,000*l.* "as the party to the note wished to pay it off." In March last, Mr. Laslett, after a long illness, wrote to the rector, stating that "the parishioners having rejected the gift," he "had determined to erect twelve almshouses," and demanded back the documents, &c. in Mr. Haveragel's hands. Lawyers have been since